

A P P E N D I X I:

THE LISTING OF CLAIMS (version with markings, showing the changes made):

1. (original) A bipolar plate for PEM fuel cells made of a polymer blend which is filled with conductivity-enhancing carbon fillers and which includes at least two mutually nonmiscible blend polymers, wherein at least two blend polymers form a co-continuous structure and the carbon fillers are at a higher concentration in one of the blend polymers or in the phase between the blend polymers, or wherein a blend polymer in which the carbon fillers are at a higher concentration forms a continuously conductive matrix in which at least one further blend polymer is intercalated.
2. (currently amended) The bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbon fillers are selected from conductive black, graphite, carbon fibers, carbon nanotubes ~~[or]~~ and mixtures thereof.
3. (currently amended) The ~~[method]~~ bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1 ~~[or 2]~~, wherein the polymer blend comprises from 25 to 95 wt% of blend polymers and from 5 to 75 wt% of carbon fillers.
4. (original) The bipolar plate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the polymer blend contains as carbon fillers
from 1 to 30 wt% of conductive black,
from 5 to 60 wt% of carbon fibers, and
from 0 to 25 wt% of carbon nanotubes,
the total amount of carbon fillers being from 6 to 70 wt%, in each case based on the total weight of the polymer blend.
5. (currently amended) A bipolar plate as claimed in ~~[any one of claims 1 to 4]~~ claim 1, wherein the blend polymers have different polarities and the carbon fillers are at a higher concentration in the more polar blend polymer.
6. (original) The bipolar plate as claimed in claim 5, wherein the polymer blend includes at least one polyamide and at least one polyether ketone or polyether sulfone as blend polymers.
7. (original) The bipolar plate as claimed in claim 6, wherein the weight ratio, in the polymer blend, of polyamide to polyether ketone/polyether sulfone is from 1:8 to 8:1.

8. (currently amended) A method of fabricating bipolar plates as claimed in [~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~] claim 1 by preparing and shaping the polymer blend filled with conductivity-enhancing carbon fillers.
9. (currently amended) A PEM fuel cell comprising bipolar plates as claimed in [~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~] claim 1.
10. (canceled)
11. (currently amended) A polymer blend as defined in [~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~] claim 1, filled with conductivity-enhancing carbon fillers and having a co-continuous structure.

A P P E N D I X II:

THE AMENDED CLAIMS (clean version of all claims):

1. (original) A bipolar plate for PEM fuel cells made of a polymer blend which is filled with conductivity-enhancing carbon fillers and which includes at least two mutually nonmiscible blend polymers, wherein at least two blend polymers form a co-continuous structure and the carbon fillers are at a higher concentration in one of the blend polymers or in the phase between the blend polymers, or wherein a blend polymer in which the carbon fillers are at a higher concentration forms a continuously conductive matrix in which at least one further blend polymer is intercalated.
2. (currently amended) The bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbon fillers are selected from conductive black, graphite, carbon fibers, carbon nanotubes and mixtures thereof.
3. (currently amended) The bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer blend comprises from 25 to 95 wt% of blend polymers and from 5 to 75 wt% of carbon fillers.
4. (original) The bipolar plate as claimed in claim 3, wherein the polymer blend contains as carbon fillers
from 1 to 30 wt% of conductive black,
from 5 to 60 wt% of carbon fibers, and
from 0 to 25 wt% of carbon nanotubes,
the total amount of carbon fillers being from 6 to 70 wt%, in each case based on the total weight of the polymer blend.
5. (currently amended) A bipolar plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blend polymers have different polarities and the carbon fillers are at a higher concentration in the more polar blend polymer.
6. (original) The bipolar plate as claimed in claim 5, wherein the polymer blend includes at least one polyamide and at least one polyether ketone or polyether sulfone as blend polymers.
7. (original) The bipolar plate as claimed in claim 6, wherein the weight ratio, in the polymer blend, of polyamide to polyether ketone/polyether sulfone is from 1:8 to 8:1.

8. (*currently amended*) A method of fabricating bipolar plates as claimed in claim 1 by preparing and shaping the polymer blend filled with conductivity-enhancing carbon fillers.
9. (*currently amended*) A PEM fuel cell comprising bipolar plates as claimed in claim 1.
10. (*canceled*)
11. (*currently amended*) A polymer blend as defined in claim 1, filled with conductivity-enhancing carbon fillers and having a co-continuous structure.